Common archaeological policy for SAARC countries

366. SHRIMATI MAIMOONA SULTAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the South Asian Archaeological Congress held recently in Delhi stressed the need for evolving a common archaeological policy for the region;

(b) if so, what steps are being contemplated in this regard; and

(c) what other major suggestions and observations were made at the Congress and what is Governments reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATON AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As recommended by the South Asian Archaeological Congress, a National Committee is to be constituted by each country to prepare a National Document on Archaeological Policy.

(c) The major suggestions and observations made by the Congress are as follows:

(1) A congress of South Asian Archaeology be held every year with an exhibition of recent archaeological finds. The Congress and Exhibition be hosted by each SAARC country by rotation. The General President of the First Archaeological Congress i.e. India may continue to hold the Office till the successor is elected at the next Congress;

(2) Exchange of scholars, archaeological material and Publications may take place bilaterally and multilaterally between SAARC countries;

(3) Training facilities available in the SAARC countries may be shared among the other SAARC countries by organising the training programmes;

(4) Each member country may set up nucleus of a Documentation Centre on standarized format for archaeological data;

(5) Each SAARC country identify weakness in the existing legislation on antiquities and art treasures and take appropriate measures to rectify the defects by mutual consultation;

(6) The SAARC countries may institute a series on art and archaeology with a view to highlight common links in the cultural heritage of the region;

(7) Each SAARC country may identify areas where collaborative field work could be undertaken to the mutual benefit in the fields of study and documentation of excavated remains, study of art, architecture, iconography, numismatics and epigraphy.

Government considers that the suggestions and observations would be of mutual benefit to the SAARC countries.

Study on AIDS and the measures to check

367. SHRI DHARAM CHANDER PRASHANT:

SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL:

DR. LOKESH CHANDRA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to study through medical experts the dreaded disease AIDS which has developed in certain parts of Europe, the United States and Singapore; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to ensure that it does not spread in this country?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) and (b) Government is aware of the potential dangers posed by the spread of AIDS in several parts of the developed world.